

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment
October 14, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), Seth Adams (SA), Michelle Clark (MC), Kris Dighe (KD), and Beri Kravitz (BK), David Davis (DD) and Tolulope Odunlami (TO).

Absent: Steve Cardon (SC).

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW).

1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm in the Diamondback Terrapin Room at Rockville City Hall. FK congratulated TO on earning his LEED AP certification – congratulations Tolu!

FK mentioned she had read in the Gazette that former Councilmember Robert Wright had been appointed to a State energy commission of some kind. [Maryland's Strategic Energy Investment Fund Advisory Board - http://www.gazette.net/stories/10082008/rocknew213950_32473.shtml]

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

KD moves to approve September 9th meeting minutes with suggested changes; DD seconds. Unanimous approval of September 9th meeting minutes.

3. Joint Session with Mayor & Council Debrief

FK thanked all Commissioners for the materials they prepared for the joint session. She said that she had received positive feedback from the Mayor and many Councilmembers on the session.

Some of the items coming forth from the session:

- Councilmember Britton was asking questions that appeared to meld possible green building design features with the upcoming SWM fee, perhaps providing SWM incentives.
 - May want to invite Lise Soukup back in for a SWM fee update, perhaps for the January meeting when the utility is more finalized. Have a discussion particularly concerning SW credits.
- The Mayor had questions about the concept of the “green bond” – how it might be used, what other jurisdictions were using it. This may be a topic for further research.

4. Working Group Updates

For Community Outreach purposes, FK asked about getting JoAnn GrBach in for a discussion of the City's public information process. NW to check on her status for November or December.

Watershed Protection Group

KD said that the Watershed Protection group met 2 weeks ago with lots of support from the City – Heather Gewandter, Amanda Rockler and Jim Ingle were all present, along with KD, SC and Audra Lew. Jim Ingle and Audra will be working on the Stream Monitoring, Amanda on the City's Rainscapes / rain barrel program, and Jason Yu (also from the City) on the Adopt-A-Stream program.

KD said that the initial goal is 2x per year monitoring of benthic macroinvertebrates, some chemical analyses, and some physical characteristics. Would like to see 6 monitoring points in the City, 2 per watershed, and would like to have ~6 people per monitoring station.

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Have started recruiting for volunteer monitors at the Farmer's Market, through the existing Adopt-A-Stream program, plan to contact Scout Groups, etc. Also, looking to get approved for student service learning (SSL) hours.

This Sat. November 2nd at Croyden Creek Nature Center is the first in a series of 3 or 4 trainings. This will mainly be introductory, but should involve some in-the-field monitoring at the local stream.

High Performance Buildings Group

SA said they will be meeting in two weeks.

Community Outreach Group

DD said that there will be an Outreach meeting next week, with the main discussion on the Environmental Excellence Award application received from New Mark Commons HOA.

Generally note – want to see if we can get a blurb advertising the working groups in Rockville's e-newsletter, or even in Rockville Reports.

5. Comprehensive Master Plan Review

Using the same strategy for the zoning ordinance, the Commission will divide up the Comp. Mater Plan (CMP) and each review certain chapters.

Chapter 1 – everyone; 2 – SC?; 3 – TO, BK; 4 – DD; 5 – everyone; 6 – KD; 7 – SA; 8 – SA; 9 – MC; 10 – TO; 11 – split by neighborhood; 12 – no one.

Provide comments to FK by November 4th. Discussion at next meeting, and final draft to Planning by Friday November 14th.

6. Staff Updates

NW mentioned that he had recently met with Gary Skulnick of Clean Currents, a Rockville company focusing on renewable energy and energy services. They have experience with aggregated energy purchasing both for residential and businesses – this is something the Commission has discussed coordinating for some time. They also have expertise in renewable energy.

The historic post office in downtown Rockville is going to be converted into the new Rockville Police headquarters. This major renovation should be looking to include as many green features as feasible given the historic nature of the building; NW will look into getting the Commission briefed on the initial design phases.

MWCOG presented their Climate Change Report to the Mayor & Council last week.
(<http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/pub-documents/yFdYVw20081105104708.pdf>)

7. Pending / Previously Tabled Items

The Anti-Graffiti Ordinance was scheduled, but was tabled as KD had to depart from the meeting early.

8. Discussion of Commission Vacancy

Tabled for next month.

9. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.